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TRUE THINGS
FROM
GOD'S WORD
IN WORDS OF ONE SYLLABLE

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"Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

St. Mark x, 14.

TRUE THINGS

FROM GOD'S WORD.

O.T

IN WORDS OF ONE SYLLABLE.

LONDON:
HAMILTON, ADAMS, AND CO.
NORWICH: FLETCHER AND SON.
1871.

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TRUE THINGS FROM GOD'S WORD.

God is great and good in all he does. We can see that in all the things that are around us. We must be sure of this, and try to love Him and please Him. He does all for us, and loves us so much. I want you to know some of the things He has done, which we read of in His Book —the Book which He taught men to write, in which we are to read and learn of Him. I will try to write from it, so that you may read your own self of the things in that Book of God, and may God bless the words to you as you read them.

God made the world we live in, we are told, in six days. He made the day and the night on the first day. On the next day He made the sky. On the third day the dry land and the sea were set in their place, and the earth brought forth grass and herbs with their seeds, and trees with their fruit. On the fourth day God made the sun, and moon, and stars—the sun to give light by day, and the moon by night, and to make the changes of heat and cold, wet and dry, in the year. Then on the fifth day God made the fishes and the fowls that they might swim and fly. On the sixth day God made the beasts and all the things that creep on the earth. Last of all he made man to rule over all the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, and all that had life and could move on the earth, and all the trees with their

fruits, and the herbs with their seeds were to be food for him.

When God made all this, He saw that all was quite good. Then God made an end of all this work, and set one day for a day of rest, which we call the Lord's Day.

When God made the first man, He gave him the name of Adam; and to his wife, whom God gave him, He gave the name of Eve. God put them in a fine place, which had the name of the "Garden of Eden," where all was good both for sight and taste. God told man to dress and keep it, and that he might eat of all but one tree in it; but that if he ate that, he should die.

Then God brought to Adam all the things that had life, and Adam gave them their names.

Now, there is a bad one, whose name is Satan, or the Devil. He came to Eve and said "Hath God said: 'You are not to eat the fruit of all the trees here?'" She said: "We may eat of all but one; but if we eat or touch that one, we shall die." The Devil said: "You shall not be sure to die, for God knows that in the day ye eat of it, you shall see so well, you shall be as gods, and know good and bad." Then Eve took a look at the tree, and saw it was good for food, and thought it would make her so wise. So she took the fruit and ate of it, and gave Adam some, and he ate of it too. Then they felt how wrong they had done; and when they heard God's voice it made them full of fear, and they hid in the trees. But no one can hide from God; and He said: "Where art thou, Adam?" Adam

said he heard God call, and fear made him hide.

And God then said: "Have you done what I told you not to do? Have you been to that tree, and did you eat of it?" Adam said; "Yes; Eve gave it me, and I ate it." And Eve said: "Satan told me how good it would be for me." God then said to Satan: "That now there should be war; for Eve's seed should know what, through him, she had done—what a lie he had told her, and what they had lost through it." And God put a curse on him, and said, that though he should bruise the heel of her seed, her seed should bruise his head.

By this God meant his dear Son, who should some day be born in the world, and by Satan's means be put to death; but that by that death men might be made free from sin, and the curse which his brought on them.

But now Adam and Eve had to leave their good home to work for their food; for now there would be weeds and thorns in the ground.

When Adam and Eve were in Paradise, they had no child; but God now gave them two sons. The name of the first was Cain; the next was Abel.

Abel kept sheep; Cain dug the ground. But Cain was not good, and Abel was. When they came to bring a gift to God, Cain brought fruit; Abel, a lamb. God saw their hearts, and would not look on Cain's gift. So Cain was wroth. He spoke in the field to Abel, and rose up and slew him.

I do not think till now Cain had seen a man dead; so I doubt not he was in a sad state of mind.

Think, what he must have felt! In his

wroth he had struck Abel, and now he saw him lie dead. Can we not see how wrong it is to feel as he had done, and to what a sad end it led? Bad thoughts lead to sin and grief; and if they stop short of such sin as Cain's, yet wroth is sin.

God knew what Cain had done, and said to him: "Where is Abel?" Cain said: "I know not; am I to watch and guard him?"

But God said: "What hast thou done? Abel's blood cries to me from the ground;" and then he went on to say, "There shall be a curse on you; and you shall flee from hence!" Cain felt all this a hard lot, and that soon some one would kill him. But God told him He would put a mark on him, that no one who found him should slay him; for if a man did, he should fare still worse than Cain must now do.

Now, we read of men who were born in this world; but of one I will now tell you more. His name was Enoch, and he was one who so made it his wish to please God, that God took him straight up to Him. He did not die as men do; he did not see death.

Now we come to Noah's time. Men had got so bad that God said they should live no more on the earth. But Noah did love God, and was a just man, so he found grace in God's sight.

God told him all these bad men should die, and he bade him build a large ark, for He would bring a flood on the earth, and all should die in it who were out of the ark; but in the ark they should be safe. Noah's wife was to go in the ark too, and their

three sons, and their three wives, and two of all things that had life, and they were to take food for all to eat.

Years went on, and as God bade him, Noah built the ark. The bad men, no doubt, thought him mad, for there was no sea near the ark. At last Noah went in the ark with his wife, his sons and their wives, and all the live things went in two-and-two; and God shut them in.

Then the rain did pour down, and soon all out of the ark were dead, but no harm came to those who were safe in it.

Soon no dry land could be seen, and the rain kept on. There was not dry land for a year, and Noah was still in the ark.

Four times he sent out a bird; the third time the dove brought a leaf. How glad they must have been to see a green thing once

more. Then the last time the dove did not come back; so Noah knew it had found dry land.

Then God told Noah to go forth out of the ark, and all that were with Him.

God said he would no more drown the world, and he set His bow in the cloud for a sign.

When you see that bright bow that most of us like to look at, you will know when and why God put it there. And think too of what sad fate came on all those who did not serve God, and did not go in the ark; and though God has said He will not bring a flood on the earth like that, yet those who do not love Him, and try to please Him, are not safe. But all who go to Jesus Christ, God's dear Son, will be, like Noah in the ark, safe from all harm.

Now in those times all speech was the same on the whole earth.

Some men who had gone on to the East from where the ark was, found a plain, and dwelt there.

They thought they would make bricks, and build a high place whose top should reach to the sky, and by that means they would get a great name, and all keep in one spot. But God made them speak so that one man could not know what the next man to him said; and as they could not find what each meant, they could build no more, and they all went on their own way, and did not keep in one part, as they first meant to do. The place had the name of Babel, and from that time all the world have no more been of one speech.

And now I will tell you of a man whose name was Abram, whom God told to leave his home and his own land to go to a land that God would show him. And then God said "I will bless thee and make thy name great, and in thee all men shall be blest. I will bless him that shall bless thee, and curse him that shall curse thee."

Abram did as God told him, and took Sarai, his wife, and Lot, a young man of whom we shall hear more; and they went to the Land of Canaan. And there God said to him: "To thy seed I will give this land."

Now, as years went on, Abram and Lot grew rich, and there was no room for all their beasts to feed. Abram said they must part, and let Lot choose which way he would go. Lot choose to go east by the Jordan, near a bad place of the name of Sodom. Soon

there came a war there, and Abram heard that the foe had got Lot; so Abram went and set him free.

Now Abram and Sarai had no child, but God now told him that they should have a son, whose name was to be Isaac. And at this time He told him too that He would now call him Abraham, and his wife Sarah; by these names we know them best.

In those days men dwelt in tents. One day as Abraham sat in the tent door in the heat of the day, he lift up his eyes: and lo! three men stood by him. When he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door and made a deep bow to them, and said to one of them: "My Lord; if I have found grace in thy sight, turn not from me, but stay and rest and wash your feet here." In the East, where they do not wear shoes, and

where there is much sand, they need to wash their feet oft. And then he said, too, he would fetch bread for them to eat. They said "So do as thou hast said." And he went in haste to Sarah, and told her to get some fine meal, to knead it, and to make cakes on the hearth, and he ran to the herd and took a fine young calf, and gave it to a young man to dress with speed. Then he took the food and some milk to his guests, and he stood by them while they did eat.

Then they told Abraham that soon now he should have a son. At first, Sarah could not think it could be so, for she had been a wife for years, and had had no child, but God said, she ought to know and feel it must be as He said.

Then the men rose up to go to Sodom, and Abraham went with them to bring them

on their way. Then One told Abraham that the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah were so great, that God would make an end of them. Then two went on, but One of them who was the Lord in man's form did not, and stood yet with Abraham. Then Abraham said, would not God spare Sodom if some good men could be found there. At last, Abraham said, if ten could be found, and God said, yes, if ten could be found He would spare it for their sakes. Then God left Abraham.

We must go back to Lot who seems to have now had his home in Sodom. At eve, two Angels came to Sodom, and Lot sat in the gate: and when he saw them, rose up to meet them, and bent his face to the ground, and said, "My lords, I pray you turn into

my house, and stay all night, and wash your feet." And they did so, and he made a feast for them.

Then they told Lot what should be the fate of Sodom for its great sins, and that if he would save his life, he must go out of it. In the morn, the Angels told him to be quick, and rise and take his wife and his two girls, lest he should share the fate of those who should be left. When they had got out of Sodom, they said, "Flee for thy life, look not back, nor stay thou in all the plain, flee to the mount lest thou die." But his wife cast a look back, and at once was made a block of salt. Then Sodom and Gomorrah came to their sad end, for God sent down fire on them.

As God had said, Sarah had a son, and

gave him the name of Isaac. Abraham had a son too, whose name was Ishmael, but he was not Sarah's child, but an Egyptian's, of the name of Hagar.

Ishmael did not love Isaac, and was not kind to him, so Sarah said, he must not stay with them.

Abraham gave Hagar and Ishmael food and drink, and they left. But soon their drink was all gone, and it is hard in those lands to get it. Hagar felt so sad, she could not bear to look at her dear boy, and she thought he would die. She sat down and wept. Then she heard God's voice, and He told her to raise her boy up, and where there was a well. So she went to it, and gave the lad drink. God said, he would be with him, and he grew up to be a great man. Hagar took a wife for him from Egypt, and his seed

still dwell in a land near it, which we call Arabia.

We read now of a fact in Abraham's life by which God would try him, and see how great was his faith in and love to God.

God told him to take his dear son Isaac, and to go to the land of Moriah, and to give him up to Him, by death. Abraham must have felt it much, but he did as he was told. He took his ass, and two young men, and Isaac, and the wood for the fire, and rose up and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day, he saw the place far off, so he told the young men to stay with the ass, while he and the lad went on. Abraham took the wood and laid it on Isaac, and he took the fire, and a knife in his hand. I think Isaac did not know what God had told Abraham to do, for Isaac said,

"Here is the fire, and the wood, but where is the lamb?" For lambs were what they had then to give up to God. Abraham said, "My son, God will find a lamb." So they went on, and came to the place God had told him of, and then Abraham got all things as he was wont, and bound Isaac, and laid him on the wood, and took his knife to slay his son.

But God now spoke and said, "Lay not thine hand on the lad, nor do ought to him, for now I know thou dost fear God, as thou hast not kept back thy son from me."

Then Abraham saw a ram caught in a bush by his horns, so he went and slew the ram in the stead of his son. God spoke once more, and told Abraham how for this deed he would bless him, and make his seed like the stars in the sky, and the sand on the seashore, and that in his seed, all men

should be blest. Abraham and Isaac then went back to their home.

In a short time, we read of the death of Sarah, who as well as Abraham, was of a great age. It was a deep grief to Isaac to lose her. He was grown up to be a man, and Abraham thought, should have a wife. But those round him in Canaan did not know or serve God, so he would not take one from them for him. He told a man who had been with him a long time, to go back to his old home, and try to get a wife for his son from thence.

The man went as Abraham told him, and when he was near the place, he said, "Oh Lord God of Abraham, I pray thee send me good speed this day, and shew grace to Abraham." He stood by the well, and went on

to ask that the maid to whom he should say, give me drink, and she should say, "Drink, and I will give your beasts drink too," should be the one meant for Isaac's wife.

While he spoke, a fair girl, the great niece of Abraham came out. The man said to her, "Give me, I pray thee, drink," and she said "Drink my lord, and let thy beasts drink as well," and she drew more for them, till they had drunk as much as they would from the trough. Then the man took some gifts he had brought, and gave her, and said, "Whose child art thou?" and she told him, Bethuel's child, and her name was Rebekah. She told him too, they had room for him to lodge, and straw, and food. The man gave thanks to God, who had thus led him to her. Rebekah ran on and told them at home, and they came and said to him, "Come in," and

they gave his beasts straw, and food, and let him and the men who had come with him, wash their feet, and set bread for them. Then their guest told them all that God had done for Abraham, that he was a great and rich man, and had gold, and flocks, and herds, and that since he was old, a son had been born to him, and that Abraham had made him swear to try and fetch a wife for Isaac, from his old home, and how God had made it plain to him, that he should ask Rebekah to go with him. Then Bethuel and his son Laban said, they felt it was God's will, and she might go. Rebekah too said, she should like to go. The man gave to her, and to her friends, more gifts.

Then she, and her nurse, and the men, set off.

It was eve, when she met Isaac. He had

gone out in the field to think, when he lift up his eyes and saw them. When Rebekah saw him, she got down, and put a vail on her.

The man told Isaac all he had done, and Isaac took her to Sarah's tent, and made her his wife.

At last Abraham's time came to die in a good old age, full of years, and Isaac and Ishmael laid him in the same grave with his wife Sarah. He was so good a man that we read of him as the friend of God.

Rebekah had twin boys, Esau and Jacob. Isaac was fond of Esau, but Rebekah was more fond of Jacob. As they grew up, Esau spent much time in the fields with his bow, but Jacob was more in the tent. One day Esau came home and saw Jacob had some food, and he was much in want of some, and

said, "Feed me I pray thee, for I am faint." Now Jacob was too fond of gain, and of the first place; so he said Esau might have some, if he would let him be as the first-born.

Esau said, "I am at the point of death, it will do me most good to get food, so you may take my place." Jacob said, "Swear to me," so he swore, and then Jacob gave him his food: and Esau eat and drank, and went on his way.

It was wrong of Esau thus to sell the place God gave him, and think so small a thing of it, and we shall see what came of his deed in a short time.

It came to pass that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he sent for Esau, and told him he was old, and knew not the day of his death. So that he should take his bow and go out to

the field and kill a deer, and then dress it, and make it nice, and bring it to him that he might eat it, and then bless him ere his death. Rebekah heard when Isaac spake to Esau, and saw Esau go out to hunt, so she spoke to Jacob, and told him what she had heard, and then she bid him to go to the flock, and fetch her from thence two good kids of the goats, and she would make nice meat of them, such as would please Isaac, and that then he would be the one Isaac should bless.

But Jacob said, "Esau has hair on his skin and mine is smooth, if Isaac feel me I shall seem a cheat, and he will not bless, but curse me." But Rebekah said, on her should be the curse, but that he should do as she bid him; so he went and brought the kids to her, and she made them nice food for Isaac.

Then she took some good clothes of Esau, and put them on Jacob, and she put the skins of the goats on his hands, and on the smooth of his neck, to make him feel like Esau; and she gave him the nice meat and bread. And he came to Isaac, and Isaac said, "Who art thou my son?" and he said, "I am Esau. I have done as you bid me, rise and eat of my meat, and let thy soul bless me."

Isaac said, "How short a time you have been," and Jacob said, "The Lord thy God brought it to me." Isaac said, "Come near I pray thee, that I may feel thee my son if you are Esau or not." Jacob went near and he felt him, and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." So Isaac did not find him out, for his hands and neck, as I told you, had rough skins on them,

but once more Isaac said, "Art thou in truth Esau," and Jacob said, "I am." Then Isaac said, "Bring the meat near and I will eat of it, and bless thee:" and Jacob brought it near to him, and he did eat, and he brought him wine and he drank. And Isaac said, "Come near now and kiss me my son;" and he came for the kiss, and Isaac smelt the clothes he had on, which were, as you know, Esau's, and they had a smell of the field. Then he blest him with all good things, and told him that men should serve him, and that all who should bless him should be blest, and all who should curse him should be curst.

As soon as Isaac had come to the end of his speech and Jacob was scarce gone out, Esau came in. He also had got some nice meat and brought it to Isaac, and said, "Rise and eat, and bless me as you said." Isaac said,

"Who art thou?" And he said, "I am your son Esau." This put Isaac in great fear, and he said, "Who? where is he that brought meat to me, and I ate it and blest him." When Esau heard these words he was in a sad state and said, "Bless me too;" Isaac said, "But Jacob came and with craft took your place." Once more Esau said, "But do bless me too," and so Isaac did: but he could not give him the same he gave Jacob. And now Esau was wrath, and felt fierce hate: he did not think how for food he had sold the gift God gave him, and he said as soon as Isaac was dead, he would kill Jacob.

These words were told Rebekah, so she sent for Jacob and said, "Esau will try to kill you, so now flee to my old home to Laban, and stay with him a few days till Esau's wroth is gone, then I will send and fetch thee."

Then she said to Isaac, "I fear lest Jacob choose a wife from here, and that would be a grief to us." Then Isaac sent for Jacob, and told him not to take a wife from that land, but to go and take one out of Laban's house, "And may God," he said, "bless thee and thy seed." So Jacob went forth from his home, and it was to be a long time ere he should go back to it.

When night came and the sun was set, he took some stones for his head, and lay down to sleep, and he had a dream. In it he saw steps from the earth to the sky, and the angels of God went up and down on them, the Lord stood on high, and told him that he was the Lord God of Abraham and Isaac, and that the land where he lay he would give to him, and his seed, and that his seed should be as the dust of the earth, and that they

should spread west, east, north, and south, and that in him and his seed, all men should be blest, that he would be with him and keep him in all places where he should go and bring him back to that land, and not leave him till he had done what he said.

When Jacob woke, he felt the Lord was there, and he was in fear and awe, and said, "This is God's house." Then he rose and took the stone that he had put for his head to sleep on, and set it up, and put oil on it.

From that time, the place had the name of Bethel, or the house of God. Then Jacob made a vow and said, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothes to put on, so that I may come back to my home in peace, then shall the Lord be my God, and this stone which I have set up shall be God's

house, and of all that he shall give me, I will give the tenth to him."

Jacob then went on his way and came to a field at last where he saw a well, and three flocks of sheep there by it, for they drew for their flocks from it. There was a great stone on the well's mouth, which they put on one side while they drew and when they had done, the stone was put back.

Jacob said to the men who were there, "Do you know Laban?" and they said, "We know him," and he said, "Is he well?" and they said, "He is well, and here comes one who is his child, Rachel, with her sheep." Jacob was glad to meet with her, and went and told her who he was, and she ran and told Laban, he too was glad to see him, and brought him to his house, and he was there a month.

Then Laban said Jacob must not serve him for nought, what would he like he should give him.

Now Jacob was fond of Rachel, and said, "I will serve you for her." And the years he so spent were but as a few days for the love he had to her. But when the set time had come, Laban did not give him Rachel for his wife, but gave him Leah, who was his child too, but had been born first, and when Jacob did not like it, Laban said that was their way in that land; but as in those days they had at times more than one wife, he had Rachel for his wife too.

He had twelve boys and one girl, but of her we do not read much: Jacob stopt with Laban for some years more, and was at last rich in flocks and herds, and then he

left to go back to his old home, and God told him He would be with him.

Jacob was in great fear though, how Esau might still feel to him, and he took a gift from his flocks to try and gain his good will. When he was near Esau's home, in the night God came to him, and blest him, and told him he should now be known as Israel.

The next day he met Esau, and when he came near, he bent low to him, but Esau ran to meet him, and fell on his neck, and gave him a kiss, and they wept. Jacob gave him the gift, and at first he said he would not take it from him, but at last he did. So they were friends, and when old Isaac came to die, his two sons went to lay him in the grave.

Of Esau we shall have no more now to

tell you, but will go on with Jacob and his sons' lives.

Rachel had but two sons, Joseph and Benjamin, and her death took place when the last was born. Joseph was the child of whom we read that Israel was the most fond, and he made him a coat of bright pieces. He seems to have been a good lad, but the rest of Jacob's sons were not. Joseph told Israel what they did wrong, and that made them hate him. Joseph had a dream. It was that they were all in the field with their sheaves, and his sheaf stood up, and theirs stood round it, and bent down to it. He told them, and they said, "You shall not reign while we serve you."

Joseph had one more dream, and told that to them. It was that the sun, moon, and stars bent down to him. Israel thought

on his words, but told him he could not think they should all bow down to him.

The rest were cross, and still more did they hate him.

One time when Israel's sons were gone to feed the flocks, he sent Joseph to them to see if it were well with them and their charge.

Joseph went, and found them in Dothan. When they saw him far off, they said, "Here comes the lad who has dreams, let us slay him, and cast him in some pit, and we will say some wild beast has made off with him, and we shall see what will be the end of his dreams." One of the sons, Reuben by name, heard it, and took him from their hands, and said, "Let us not kill him, shed no blood, but cast him in this pit, and lay no hand on him." For Reuben thought that thus he could free him from their hands, and get him back to Jacob.

Then they stript off his bright coat that he wore, and cast him in the pit, which was a dry one, and they sat down to eat, and soon they saw some men, Ishmaelites, who were on their way to Egypt with things to sell there. And now we read that Judah, one of Jacob's sons, said they would not gain by Joseph's death, but they might if they sold him. So they drew up Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to these men, and they took him with them to Egypt. Joseph was so sad when they thus sold him, far from his home, but they did not heed his cries and his grief.

Reuben was not there when the rest sold him, and when he came back to them, he rent his clothes, and was in great grief when he did not find him in the pit.

Then they took Joseph's coat, and put it

in the blood of a goat, and took it to old Jacob, and said, "This have we found: know now if it be thy son's coat or no."

Jacob knew it, and said, "It is my son's coat," and he thought that he had met with his death from some fierce wild beast, and he rent his clothes, which is the way in which they mourn in those lands. Then they all rose up to try and cheer him, but they did not tell him what bad things they had done, nor where Joseph was gone, and the poor old man wept for him a long time.

Joseph, when he got to Egypt, was sold to Potiphar, the head of king Pharaoh's guard.

And the Lord was with Joseph, and Potiphar saw it, and he found grace in his sight, and Potiphar set him to see to things for him, and left all he had in his hands.

Joseph was a fine young man, and, best of all, he had the fear and love of God in his heart, so when Potiphar's wife one day said things that were not right of her to say to him, he would not stay with her, but made haste and left her.

When Potiphar came home, his wife, who knew she had done wrong, told him Joseph was a bad man, and she got Joseph shut up in jail. But God was still with him, and soon the head man in the jail left him to see to the rest there.

Now king Pharaoh had been wroth with two of the chief men whom he had to serve him, and put them in ward in the same jail where Joseph was. One night each of them had a dream, and when in the morn Joseph came in to see them, they had so sad a look, that he said, "What makes you look so sad?"

and they said they each had had a dream, and could not tell what they meant. "God teaches that," Joseph said, "Tell them to me," and then they did so.

The first said he saw a vine with three branches, and it bore ripe grapes, and he had Pharaoh's cup in his hand, and he took the grapes, and put their juice in the cup, and gave it to Pharaoh's hand. Joseph told him this meant that in three days Pharaoh would set him free, and he should serve him as he had done, and give the cup to him; and he said, "Then think on me when it shall be well with thee, and speak of me, I pray thee, to Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house."

Then the next man told his dream when he saw what a good one the first one's had been. He had, he said, three trays on his

head, and in the top one were all kinds of bake meat for Pharaoh, and the birds eat them from off his head.

This, Joseph told him, meant that in three days Pharaoh would lift his head from off him, and hang him on a tree, and that the birds should eat his flesh from off him.

On the third day Pharaoh made a feast, and as Joseph had told the two men, it came to pass. The first went back to his place, but the next was hung.

But the first man, when he was set free, thought no more of Joseph for a long time.

At the end of two years king Pharaoh had a dream, that he stood by the bank of the stream, and saw come up out of it some fine fat kine, and they fed in a field; then came up some poor lean kine, and stood by

the first, and the poor lean ones eat up the fine fat ones, and then Pharaoh woke. Once more, he slept, and had a dream. This time he saw some ears of corn come up on one stalk, rank and good, and then some ears, thin and spoilt by the east wind, sprung up, and the thin ears eat up the full ones. Then Pharaoh woke up from his dream.

In the morn he could not think what all this meant, so he sent for all his wise men, and told them his dreams, but they could not help him.

Then the man to whom Joseph had made clear his dream in the jail, thought of him, and spoke of what Joseph had told him, and how it had come to pass just as he said it would. So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and they brought him from the jail, and Pharaoh told him he had heard that he could tell

what a dream meant. But Joseph said it was not in him, but that God could tell him. The king at once told him his dreams, and when he had heard them, Joseph said, the two dreams meant but one thing; the kine and the ears both meant years. That first there should be some years of good grain, and much of it, and then should come some years when they should have none, and there would be great want, and the best thing that could be done would be, that while they had the good years, they should lay by a fifth of all the corn, and that this food should be for store when the years of want should come on the land.

Pharaoh and his men saw what a wise plan this was, and they felt they could not find a man more fit than Joseph was to see it done. So Pharaoh said to him, "As God

has shewn all this to you, and you are so wise, as you say all shall be done, and I set you to see it is; in all the land you shall be next to me, and shall rule." And he took off his ring from his hand, and put it on Joseph's hand, and drest him in rich clothes, and put a gold chain on his neck, and made him ride in one of his coaches, and all bent down to him and said, "Bow the knee." Pharaoh gave him a wife too, and she had two sons.

Then all the good years Joseph saw that corn was laid by in store, and at the end of the good years came the bad ones. And want was felt in all lands, and Joseph sold to the Egyptians, and to those who came from far, for all came to Egypt to buy corn, their need was so great.

Now when Jacob saw that there was corn

in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Go down there and buy for us from thence, that we may live, and not die." So his ten sons went, but not Benjamin, for Jacob was in fear lest harm might come to him.

So the rest went, for they were in sore need in Canaan, to buy corn in Egypt.

Now Joseph who had rule in the land sold to those who came. So when Jacob's sons came, they made a bow to him down to the ground. When Joseph saw them, he knew them, but did not tell them who he was, and spoke hard things to them and said, "Whence come ye," and they said "From the land of Canaan to buy food." But though he knew them they did not know him. He thought of his dreams in past years, and said to them, "Ye are spies come for no good;" they said, "Nay, my lord, we are come to buy food,

we are all one man's sons in the land of Canaan, we were twelve, but one is left at home, and one is not." They did not think who it was they thus spoke to.

Joseph still said they were spies, and they should send one for Benjamin, and the rest he would keep to see if they spoke true or false. So he put them all in ward three days. The third day he said, "This do and live, for I fear God; one of you shall be bound and stay here, the rest may go and take corn for those at home, but they must bring Benjamin down to me, and then they shall live and not die." And they did so. Then what they had done to Joseph came in their minds, and they felt that God had now sent this on them; Reuben then said, did he not ask them not to hurt the child, and they would not hear. They did not know Joseph knew all they said, but

he did, and went out and wept. Then he came back and took Simeon and bound him.

Joseph bade that all their sacks should be made full of corn, and to put the price of it, that they had brought, back in each one's sack, and to give them food for the way. So they put the sacks on their beasts and went. And as one of them went to his sack to give his ass some food in the inn, he saw in the sack's mouth his gold, and when the rest heard this, they were in much fear.

And they came to Jacob and told him all. What harsh words they had heard from the man who was the lord of the land, how he took them for spies, how they had told him what they were, and yet he had said, he did not know they were true men, and he should keep one of them, till the one they had left at home was brought to him, and then if

they did bring him, they might trade in the land.

When they came to put out the corn from their sacks, there they found the price in each, and they were in great grief. Poor Jacob was sad at his son Simeon's loss, and felt all things were bad for him, and he said Benjamin should not go down. Reuben said, "Slay my two sons, if I bring him not to thee: give him to my care." But Jacob said, he should not go, for Joseph was dead, and if harm should come to Benjamin, his grey hairs would go to the grave in grief.

When the corn was all gone that they had brought, Jacob said, "Go to Egypt to buy us more food," but then Judah, who was one of his sons said, that the man had said they should not see his face till Benjamin was

with them. So if Jacob would send him, they would go, if not, they would not. Jacob said, "Why did you tell him I had a son Benjamin?" and they said, "We could not know when he made us tell him of our state, and our home, that he would say, bring Benjamin down to me," and Judah said, "Send the lad with me, and we will go that we may live, and not die, and I will bring him back or bear the blame."

So Israel said, "If it must be so now, do this, take of the best fruits of the land, a gift for the man, balm, nuts, spice, and more good things, and take twice the price of the corn, and that you found in the mouth of your sacks, and take Benjamin, and go to the man: and God give you grace in his sight that he may send back Simeon and Benjamin."

And the men took the gift, and gold, and

Benjamin, and rose up and went down to Egypt to Joseph.

And when Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he told the chief man in his house to bring the men home, for they should dine with him at noon. And the man did as Joseph bade, and brought the men to Joseph's house. This made them fear, and they thought that now they should be told they had not paid the last time for their corn, so they went to Joseph's head man, and told him how they had found the price of their corn in their sacks, and that now they had brought it back, and brought some more to pay for fresh food. And the man said, "Peace be to you, fear not, your God gave it back to you, I had it." Then he brought Simeon out to them, and made them fit to sit down to meat, and gave their beasts

food. And they got their gift for Joseph, and when he came, they gave it to him, and bent down to him to the ground, and he said, "How is it with you, and with the old man Jacob of whom you spoke. Does he still live?" And they told him he was in good health, and bent their heads to him as they said so.

Then he said, "Is this Benjamin the old man's son of whom you told me?" And he said, "God shew his grace to you my son." Then he went out from them and went to his own room, and wept at the sight, and the news he had heard. When he came back he said, "Set on bread," and so they did for all, and he sent food to them, but to Benjamin he sent five times more than to the rest. And they drank, and were full of joy.

Then Joseph told his head man to fill the men's sacks with food, and to put the price

back in them, and to put his cup in Benjamin's sack, and so he did.

As soon as it was light next day, they all left, but they had not gone far when Joseph bade that they should go on their track, and when they got to them, should ask why they had done bad for the good done to them, and had been thieves, so that one of them should steal Joseph's cup. Of course they said they had not done so. When they found the price of their corn the first time they had brought it back. How then should they steal from their lord's house. But if the cup were found with them, the one with whom it was found should die, and the rest would be Joseph's slaves.

And the man said it should be as they said, he with whom it was found should serve him, but the rest should be free from blame.

Then in haste, each took down his sack t
the ground to search it, and in Benjamin
sack the cup was found. Then they rei
their clothes, and each man put his sack o
his ass, and went back to the town, and t
Joseph's house, for he was yet there. And the
fell on the ground and Joseph said, "Wh
deed is this that ye have done, know ye n
that such a man as I can find out things?"

And Judah said, "What shall we say t
my lord, what shall we speak that we may b
clear from this? God hath found out our sin
we are all my lord's slaves." But Josep
said, God would not have it so, "The man i
whose hands the cup is found shall serve m
as for you, get you back home in peace."

Then Judah came near to him and sai
"Oh my lord, let me, I pray thee, speak
word in my lord's ears, and be not wrot

with me, for thou art as Pharaoh. When you bid us tell we did, that we had left at home with Jacob a child of his old age, of whom he was so fond that he would not let him leave him, and you said, 'Bring him down to me that I may set my eyes on him,' and we said, 'The lad may not leave home or Jacob will die.' But you said, 'He must come or you shall see my face no more.' When we got home, we told your words, and when Jacob said, 'Go, buy us more food,' we said, 'We will go if we may take Benjamin, but not else.' Then the old man said, 'You know my wife Rachel had two sons, and the one went out from me and was torn by wild beasts, and I saw him not since, and if you take this one too from me, and harm come to him, ye shall bring down my grey hairs with grief to the grave.' So if I go back

and he is not with us, he will die of grief, and I told him that if I did not bring him back I would bear the blame. So let me I pray thee stay in the lad's stead, and let him go, for how can I go back if he be not with me, I shall but see Jacob's deep grief."

Then Joseph could bear no more, and he told all the rest to go out, and there stood none with him while he told them who he was, and he wept, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard. And Joseph said to them, "I am Joseph, doth Israel yet live?" And they could not speak to him, they were in such fear. And he said, "Come near to me I pray you," and they came near, and he said "I am Joseph whom ye sold, and now ye need not be sad nor wroth in your minds that you sold me here, for God did send me to save life. For these two years there have

been no crops, and there are still five years in which there shall be none, and God sent me to keep food for you on the earth, and to save your lives. So now it was not you that sent me, but God, and he hath made me a lord in Pharaoh's house, and that I rule through all the land of Egypt, haste ye, go up to Israel and say to him, 'Thus saith thy son Joseph, come down to me, with speed, and thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near to me. And bring thy sons, and thy son's sons, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast, and there I will keep thee, for there are still five years of want.' And your eyes can all see that it is I who speak to you, and go back and tell Israel what I am, and all that ye have seen here, and you shall haste and bring Jacob down here."

And he fell on Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck, and he kist them all and wept, and did talk with them all.

And the news was heard in Pharaoh's house, and he was glad, and said to Joseph, "Tell the men to lade their beasts and go to the land of Canaan, and get all they have and come here, and I will give you the good of the land of Egypt, and ye shall eat the fat of the land."

And they were to take large carts for their wives, and the young ones. So the men did so, and Joseph gave them what Pharaoh said, and food for the way. To all of them he gave a change of clothes each, but to Benjamin he gave much more, and he sent gifts to old Israel of the good things of Egypt, and corn, and bread, and meat for him by the way. And when he sent them

off, he said, "See that ye fall not out by the way."

And they went up out of Egypt, and came to Israel in the land of Canaan, and told him Joseph was not dead, but had rule in the land of Egypt. Jacob could not think this true. But they told him all the words of Joseph which he had said to them, and when he saw what Joseph had sent to fetch him, he took heart and said, "Joseph my son still lives, I will go and see him ere I die."

So Jacob and all he had set off, and at Beersheba God came to him in the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob," And he said, "Here am I," and He said, "I am God, the God of Isaac, fear not to go down to Egypt, for I will go with thee, and make thee and thy seed great, and I will bring thee back,

and Joseph shall put his hand on thine eyes." So they all went on to Egypt and to Goshen, and Joseph went to meet Israel and fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good time.

And Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die since I have seen thy face." and Joseph said to all of them, "I will go up and shew Pharaoh you are come from the land of Canaan to me, and that your trade is to feed flocks and herds, and that you have brought yours with you, with all that you have. Now when Pharaoh shall call you and shall ask your trade, ye shall tell him it hath been to tend flocks and herds from your youth till now, that ye may dwell in this land of Goshen. For yours is a trade the Egyptians hate." Joseph then went and told the king, and took five of the men with

him, and as Joseph bade them, so they told Pharaoh. Then Jacob came and blest Pharaoh, and told him his age.

Pharaoh told Joseph to give them the best of the land, and so he did, and took much care of them.

At last the time drew nigh that Israel must die, and he sent for Joseph to ask him, when he should be dead, to let him lie where Abraham and Isaac had been laid. Joseph said he would, and when Israel said, "Swear to me," he sware to him.

Israel grew worse, and when Joseph heard it, he went to him with his two sons Ephraim and Manasseh, who had been borne in Egypt, and Israel said, "Bring them to me that I may bless them, and he did so."

Then Jacob sent for all his sons to tell

them what should come to them, and he spoke to each one and blest him, and told them to place him when he was dead, in the cave where Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah and Leah were laid, and then Jacob gave up the ghost.

Joseph wept much at his death, and in a short time told Pharaoh Jacob's wish. And Joseph, and all Israel's sons and his house, went and took him to the cave of the field of Machpelah. Then they all went back to Egypt.

Now Jacob was dead, his sons were in dread lest Joseph should hate them for what they did to him, so they went to ask him not to think of their sin, and they bent down at his feet. Joseph wept when they spoke and said, "Fear not, am I in God's stead? you thought wrong to me, but God meant it for

good, and to come to pass that it might save life. So fear not, I will still care for you."

When Joseph was near death, he told them God would bring them up out of that land, to the land which he sware to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and he took an oath of them, they should take his bones with them when they should leave Egypt.

When Joseph and all Israel's sons had been dead some time, there was a king of Egypt, who did not like to see their race thrive so well, so he was harsh to them, and made them work hard; and as that did not kill them he said, they were to drown all the boys that should be born. But a man of the tribe of Levi had a son, whom his wife hid three months, and then as she could hide him no more, she made an ark of rushes, and

laid him in it, and put it in the flags by the edge of the stream, and set her child Miriam to watch what was done with it. Soon there came down the Princess, Pharaoh's child, with her maids to wash in the stream, and when she saw the ark she sent one of her maids for it, and when she saw the babe, it wept. Then Miriam came and said, "Do you want a nurse for it?" and she said, "Yes." So the babe was sent to its own home till it was grown, and then went to Pharaoh's court, and had the name of Moses, or drawn out, as he had been drawn out of the stream. When Moses grew up to be a man, he took part with the Israelites, and put an Egyptian, who struck one, to death. Then he had to fly from Egypt, and he went to the land of Midian, and took a wife Zipporah, the child of Jethro the priest.

One day, while Moses kept Jethro's flocks, he came to Mount Horeb, and saw a bush on fire, yet not burnt; and when he went near to see this strange sight, God spoke to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses," and he said, "Here am I." God said, "Draw not nigh, put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for this place is God's." Moses was in great fear, and hid his face. Then God said, "I have seen all the sad fate of the Israelites, and have heard their cry, and I will free them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and bring them up out of that land to a good land, and a large, and I will send you to king Pharaoh, and you shall bring out the Israelites from Egypt." Moses said, "Who shall I say has sent me," and God said, "I AM THAT I AM, say I AM has sent you. Go, tell the Israelites what I will

do, and then go to the king and ask for you all to go for three days to serve your God, but he will not let you, till I have done strange things in his land, but at last you shall go."

Moses was in fear that they would not hear him, so God gave him some signs, he told him to cast a rod he had in his hand on the ground, and it should turn to a snake, and Moses fled from it. God told him to take it by the tail, and when he put out his hand and caught it, it was once more a rod. Then God said, "Put your hand in your breast," and he did, and when he took it out it was white as snow, and he put it back to his breast, and it was the same as the rest of his flesh. And he was to shew the Israelites these signs. Moses then said, "But I am slow of speech," so God said, "Take Aaron the Levite, who was a son of Amram and

Jochebed as well as Moses, but born first with thee, and I will teach you what to say and do." So Moses went back to Egypt and met Aaron, and they told the Israelites all God had said to Moses; and the signs He gave him, he did in their sight.

Then Moses and Aaron went and told Pharaoh that God would have them go and hold a feast to him, but Pharaoh said, "I know not the Lord, nor will I let Israel go. Do not stop the men from their work;" and he gave them still more to do, and made them find their own straw to make their bricks. Moses told God how much worse Pharaoh now did, and God said, "I will make him let you go, but first I will make his heart hard, that I may lay my hand on Egypt, and they shall know that I am the Lord."

Moses and Aaron then went to Pharaoh, and Aaron cast down his rod, and it was a snake. Pharaoh's wise men did so with their rods, but Aaron's rod eat theirs up.

Still Pharaoh said they should not go. So God told Moses to go to Pharaoh next day as he went out, and when he should come to the brink of the stream, Moses should take his rod and smite the stream, and it should turn to blood, and the fish in it should die, and it should stink, and they should loathe to drink it. God bid him tell Aaron too to take his rod, and stretch it out, and all the streams, ponds and pools, should be blood, there should be naught for them to drink all through the land. This went on for a whole week.

God then said, "Ask Pharaoh once more to let the Israelites go to serve me, and if he

will not, say I will send frogs, and they shall come up in his house, and on his bed, and in all places, and they shall come on him, and on all the Egyptians."

Then God told Aaron to stretch out his rod, and the frogs came up on all the land of Egypt. Then Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron, and said, "Ask the Lord for me that he may take the frogs from us, and I will let the Israelites go and serve Him."

So Moses and Aaron did, and God let the frogs die, and sent no more. But when Pharaoh saw they were gone, he made his heart hard, and would not let the Israelites go. And the Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron to stretch out his rod and smite the dust of the land, that it may turn to lice, through all the land of Egypt." And they did so, and all the dust was lice on man and on beast.

Still Pharaoh kept his heart hard. Then the Lord said to Moses, "Rise up in the morn and go to Pharaoh; lo, he goes to the stream, and say to him, 'Let the Israelites go that they may serve me, else if thou wilt not let them go, I will send swarms of flies on thee, and all that live with thee, and they shall be in all thy houses, they shall be full of swarms of flies, and they shall be in all the ground.'" And the Lord did so, and swarms of flies came on all the land.

Then Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron, and said, "Go serve your God in the land." But Moses said, "It is not meet so to do, we must go three days from Egypt to serve our God as He has told us." Pharaoh said, "I will let you go if you do not go far off, but ask God to take these swarms of flies from us." Moses went out from Pharaoh

and did as he would have him, and the Lord took the flies from Pharaoh and the Egyptians. But when they were gone, Pharaoh made his heart as hard as in times past.

So then the Lord bade Moses go to Pharaoh and tell him that the Lord God said, "Let the Israelites go that they may serve me. For if thou dost not let them go but will hold them still, lo, the hand of the Lord is on thy beasts in the field, they shall all be sore sick and ill, but the Israelites' beasts shall not be ill." And so it came to pass the next day, that all the beasts of the Egyptians were dead, but the Israelites had not one dead. Pharaoh sent and found it was so, yet still his heart was hard, and he would not let the Israelites go.

Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Take ashes from a fierce fire, and let Moses

cast them up to the sky in the sight of Pharaoh, and it shall be small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be boils on man and on beast." Moses and Aaron did so, and the boils came on man and on beast. But now God made Pharaoh's heart hard, and he did not heed, as God had told Moses he would not.

The Lord said to Moses, "Rise up in good time, and go to Pharaoh and say, 'Thus saith the Lord God of the Israelites, let them go that they may serve me. For I will at this time send all my plagues on thy heart, and on the Egyptians that you may know there is none like me in all the earth. For now I will stretch out my hand and smite you all, that ye shall die. Still wilt thou not let the Israelites go; lo, on the next day *I will* cause it to rain such a storm of hail

as has not been known in Egypt. Send now and get in all thy beasts, and all that thou hast in the field, for on all men and beasts that shall be found in the field and shall not be brought home, the hail shall come down on them, and they shall die.'" So all in the land on whom God's fear had come, made their men and beasts flee in the house, and those who did not fear God, left theirs in the field.

Then there came a great storm of hail and fire with it, and the fire ran on the ground, and the hail smote through all the land of Egypt, all that was in the field both man and beast, and the hail smote each herb of the field, and brake each tree of the field. But in the land of Goshen where the Israelites were, was there no hail.

And Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron,

and said, "I have done wrong this time, God does right, but I and the Egyptians have done ill. Now ask God that there may be no more such storm and hail, and I will let you go." Then Moses said, "As soon as I am gone out, I will ask God that the storm may cease, that you may know the earth is the Lord's. But I know that ye will not yet fear the Lord God."

A great deal of grain was spoilt but not all by the hail, for some was not yet grown.

As Moses had said, as soon as the plague was gone, Pharaoh's heart was hard, and he did not let them go.

And God said to Moses "Go to Pharaoh, I have made his heart hard that I may shew my signs in his sight, and that you may tell your sons and your sons' sons what things I have done in Egypt, that you may know I

am the Lord." So Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh and said, "God saith, how long will you not let the Israelites go? If thou dost not let them go, I will send the fierce flies, and they shall be on all the earth, that you shall not see the ground, and they shall eat all that the hail has left, and all the trees of the field."

The Egyptians would have been glad if Pharaoh had let the Israelites go. Pharaoh said, "The men might go," but Moses said, "All must go," and Pharaoh would not let all, so the plague came. The east wind blew, and the next day the land was made dark, by the swarms that came, and they eat up all the green things in the land. Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron in haste, and said, "Oh, ask God to take this death from us." Moses did so, and God heard him, and sent all

the swarms from the land, but God made Pharaoh's heart still hard.

The Lord now told Moses to stretch out his hand and it should be quite dark, and Moses did so, and for three days no Egyptian could see a man, nor did they rise from their places. But all the Israelites had light in their houses. Then Pharaoh said to Moses, "Go all of you, young and old, but leave your flocks and herds."

Moses said, "We must have them to kill, and give to the Lord, we must take them all with us, we will not leave a hoof, for we shall want some to serve our God with."

But God made Pharaoh's heart so hard that he would not let them go, and he told Moses not to let him see his face more, and Moses said he should not.

God said, "I will bring one plague more on Egypt and Pharaoh, and then he will let you go, and will thrust you out. Tell the Israelites to get the Egyptians to lend them gold and fine stones," and they did so. Then Moses told them that at twelve o'clock at night, God would go through the midst of Egypt, and that all their first-born should die, both of men and beasts, and there should be a great cry in Egypt, such as there had been none like it, nor should there be in times to come. But no harm should come to the Israelites, but the Egyptians should come and bow down and beg them to go.

Now we come to one of the great feasts of the Israelites, which they were told to keep. On the tenth day of this first month of the year, they were to take a lamb for

each house. For four days they were to keep the feast, then to kill the lamb and take the blood and strike it on the two side posts, and on the top of the door post of the house. Then eat the flesh roast with fire, and take bread that had no yeast, and herbs with it. And all they did not eat that night, they were to burn with fire, and they were to eat it in haste, with their shoes on their feet and their staff in their hand. On that night God said He would pass through the land of Egypt, and smite all their first-born both of man and beast. And the blood should be to them for a sign where they were. When He saw the blood He would pass by, and the plague should not be on them. And they were to think of this day, and keep it a feast in all times.

In days to come when their sons should

ask them why they kept it, they were to say what God had done for them when He put the Egyptians to death.

And that night God did as He had said, and Pharaoh and all the Egyptians rose up and there was a great cry, for there was not a house where there was not one dead. Then the king sent for Moses and Aaron, and said, "Rise up, get forth from us, and serve the Lord as ye have said, and take your flocks and herds as ye said, and be gone and bless me." The Egyptians sent them out in haste for they said, "We be all dead men," and they gave them rich things to go, of gold and clothes, and all that they had need of.

When the Israelites left Egypt, God led them to the Red Sea, and went in front of

them by day in a cloud to lead them, and by night in fire to give them light.

When Pharaoh heard they had fled, God made his heart and the hearts of the Egyptians hard, so that they said, "Why have we let them go?" So they went forth to take them. The Israelites were in great fear now and said they should die. But Moses said, "Fear not, stand still and see what God will do for you, he shall fight for you."

God told Moses to bid the Israelites move on, and he was to lift up his rod, and stretch out his hand on the sea and part it, and they should go through the midst of it on dry land, and the Egyptians should go on too. So all that night they went on, but the Egyptians had no light, so they came not near the Israelites.

The Lord made the sea go back by a

strong east wind, and made the sea dry land, and the Israelites went through the midst of the sea on dry ground; the sea was a wall on their right hand, and on their left. And the Egyptians went in too, and all their horses, and cars of war. But God bade Moses stretch out his hand on the sea, and it came back in its strength. The Egyptians fled from it, but they were all lost in its depths, not one got out. But the Israelites saw them dead on the sea shore, and they sang a song of joy. So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea, and they went on. For three days they had naught to drink, and when they did find some it was not good, but God told Moses to cast a tree in, and then it was sweet.

At length they had need of food, and said

they should die; they would they were back in Egypt, where they had flesh and bread. God said, He would rain down bread from the sky for them, and they should go and get it each day, and on the sixth day, they should get twice as much.

So Moses and Aaron told the Israelites that they should that night have flesh, and the next day bread to the full, and should know that God was the Lord.

So the quails came up that night, and next morn the dew lay round the host. And when the dew was gone up, on the ground there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground. And when the Israelites saw it, they knew not what it was, so they said, "It is Manna." Moses told them it was the bread which came from God, and they were to get it for their food each day

fresh, and not to leave it, but some did leave it, but the next day it was bad. On the sixth day they got twice as much, for on the day of rest, none was to be found. The food was white and sweet, and till they came to the land of Canaan they had it.

Then once more they had great thirst, and chode with Moses that he should give them to drink, and said, he had brought them up from Egypt, to kill them and their beasts with thirst. Moses went to God to ask Him what he should do, God told him to go on, and take with him some of the old men and his rod, and that He would stand on the rock, and Moses should strike it, and that a stream should flow from it. And Moses did so.

Then there came some men to fight with

the Israelites, and Moses stood on the hill with the rod of God in his hand. Moses, Aaron, and Hur, went up the hill, and while Moses' hands were up, the Israelites got on well, but when his hands went down, they did not. So they put a stone for Moses to sit on, and the two men held up his hands. And the Israelites got the best of the fight.

Now in the third month, from the time they left Egypt, they came to the waste land of Sinai, and their camp was in front of the mount. There God told them, by Moses, that if they would serve Him, and keep His laws, they should be those whom He would prize more than the rest of the world.

And the Israelites said, "We will do all

that God has said," Then God said, on the third day, He would come down on the mount; and there was a thick cloud, and great sound, and light, and a great voice of a trump; so that all in the camp were in great fear. Moses brought them out to meet God; and they stood at the foot of the mount. There was a great smoke where God came down in fire, and God told Moses to come up.

Then God spake and said, "I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house where you were slaves.

Thou shalt have no gods but me.

Thou shalt not make to thee false gods, nor bow down to them, nor serve them.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold

him free from guilt that takes his name in vain.

Be sure to keep the day of rest; Six days shalt thou work, and do all that thou hast to do: but on the day of rest, thou shalt do no work; thou, nor those of thy house, nor those who may be in thy gates. For in six days the Lord made the sky, the earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and took rest on the next day: so God blest that day.

Love and fear those who gave thee birth, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God gives thee.

Thou shalt not kill.

Thou shalt not serve the lusts of the flesh.

Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not tell false tales.

Thou shalt not long to have what thou hast not, but some one else has."

The Israelites were in great fear when they saw and heard all, and said to Moses, "Speak thou with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." Moses said, "Fear not, God is come to prove you, and that you may serve him." They stood far off, while Moses drew near to God. God said, "See, be sure that ye make no gods of gold." Then He gave them more laws, and said He would bring them to a good land, and bless them, if they kept all He told them.

God told Moses to come up to the mount to be with Him, and He would give him stones, on which were His ten laws that he might teach them.

God told him, too, to make an ark, and how it was to be made, and that they were

to bring gifts for it, and for a large tent to hold it, and serve God in; and that Aaron and his sons were to be priests, and what dress they were to wear. He told him once more to be sure to keep the day of rest, and that he who did work on that day, should be cut off.

When the Israelites saw that Moses did not come down out of the mount, they went to Aaron, and said, "Up, make us gods, for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we know not where he is." So Aaron told them to take their gold things and make a calf, and set it up, and they said, "These be thy gods, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." And Aaron said, the next day should be a feast to the Lord, and so they did; and then they sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go, get thee down; for the Israelites have done ill, they have made a calf to serve, and said, 'These be thy gods, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.' Let me be, that my wroth may wax hot, and I will kill them: and let thee and thy sons take their place." But Moses said, "Oh, let not thy wroth wax hot to slay them. Think on Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to whom you have sworn, that their seed should be as the stars of the sky, and that they should have that good land."

Then Moses went down, and Joshua (a young man who had been part of the way with him.) They heard a great noise which Joshua thought was war: but Moses said, no, it was a voice of song.

And it came to pass, that as soon as he

came nigh to the camp, he saw the calf, and the dance: and he was wroth, and cast the stones out of his hands, and brake them. And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and put it in the stream, and made them drink of it.

And Moses said, "Let those on the Lord's side come to me;" and all the tribe of Levi came. And he said, "Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, put each man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate through the camp, and slay those you meet." And the tribe of Levi did so.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Hew thee two stones like the first; and I will write on them the words which were in the first stones, which you broke, and come up to the top of

the mount." And God came down there to him, and stood with him.

And God told him to break the false gods of the lands where they should go, and serve none but the Lord. And that three times in the year they should keep feasts.

When Moses came down from the mount, the skin of his face shone: and he had to put a vail on while he spoke.

Then Moses told them all they were to do, and they brought gifts, with a good will for the work. And they made the ark of wood, and gold on it, and all the things as God had told Moses. And the dress for the priests and the tent.

When Moses saw they had done all, then he blest them.

Aaron and his sons were made priests. When all was done, a cloud was on the tent,

for the Lord was there. When it went up they went on, but if it did not go up, they did not go on. The cloud was on the tent by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, through all their course.

God then told Moses what they were to bring and kill for Him, of their flocks, and herds, and fowls, and how it was to be done: and what they were to bring to Him, of all their things. And how they were to bring naught but their best of all kinds of things and beasts. And what they might, and what they might not eat of beasts, fish, and fowls; and that they were not to eat blood. God said, one priest was to be made, the high or chief priest, and Aaron was made the first one.

And God said, if they kept all His laws, He would bless them, and would be their

God, and they should be His care. But if they did not, He would set His face from them, and they should be slain; they should sow, but they should not eat; and they should spend their strength in vain.

Now the Israelites grew sick of their food from the sky, and said "Oh that we had flesh to eat." God was wroth, and said they should eat flesh for a whole month, and He sent quails, and with them a plague, which was the death of those who spoke ill of God's gift of food.

Then the Lord told Moses "Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give to the Israelites: of each tribe shall ye send a man." Moses sent them to spy out the land, and said, "Get you up this way to the south, and go up to the

mount; and see the land what it is, and those that dwell in it, if they be strong or weak: and what the land is they dwell in, good or bad, and if they live in towns or tents, or strong holds; and what the land is, fat or lean; if there be wood there or not, and bring of the fruit of the land." Now it was the time of the first ripe grapes. So they went, and as they came back, they cut down a branch of grapes by a brook, and two men bore it on a staff; and they brought figs, and such like fruits too.

And they came back with their fruits, and said, "We came to the land and it is good, but the men that dwell there are strong, and the towns have walls, and the men are great." Caleb one of the spies said, "Let us go up for we can take the land;" but the men that went up with him, said, "No, we could not."

Then the Israelites wept, and said they would they had not left Egypt, and they would like to choose a man to lead them back. All but Caleb and Joshua, two of the spies, said so.

God was wroth with them, and said He would cut them off. But Moses once more said "Oh, do not do so." So God said He would spare them, but that none of those who came out of Egypt should go to Canaan, but they should die in that waste land, all but the two good spies.

Some of the men thought they would now go and try to get to the land, but they were met by their foes, and fell by the sword.

Some of the Israelites thought Moses and Aaron took too much on them; so they said so, and would have had the rest think the same.

But God made the earth gape, and the men, their wives, and all that were theirs, went down quick to the pit, and the earth shut them in; and all the Israelites round, fled at the cry of them.

Then the Lord said they should take twelve rods, one for each tribe, and write the name of a prince on them; and Aaron's name on that for the tribe of Levi, and that the man he should choose, his rod should bud. They should be put in God's tent, and they did so. And when they were brought forth, Aaron's rod had buds on it; so it was kept as a sign. And God choose the house of Levi to do his work.

The Israelites next had need of drink once more, and told Moses they should die: they had naught to drink, and there was no fruit there. God told Moses and Aaron to call

the Israelites; and for Moses to take his rod, and speak to the rock, and there should come streams for them, and their beasts. And Moses and Aaron did so. And Moses said, "Hear now, must we give you drink out of this rock." And he lift up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and there came a large stream, both for the men and their beasts. And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, and said, "As you had not faith in me, to give me the praise in the eyes of the Israelites: you shall not bring them to the land which I give them."

And when they came to mount Hor, God said to Moses and Aaron, "Aaron shall die now. So take Aaron and his son, and bring them up to the mount, and strip Aaron of his clothes, and put them on his son: and

Aaron shall die there." And Moses did as God bade him: and they went up in the sight of the Israelites and put Aaron's dress on his son; and when Aaron was dead, Moses and Aaron's son came down from the mount.

And the Israelites went from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, and were sad, and spoke ill of God and of Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die here?" And the Lord sent fierce snakes of fire to them, and they bit them, so that it was their death. And they came to Moses, and said, "We have done ill to the Lord, and to you; pray to the Lord that he take these snakes from us." And Moses did so.

And the Lord said to Moses, "Make thee a snake of fire, and set it on a pole, and it

shall come to pass, that each one whom a snake bites, when he looks on it, shall live." And Moses made a snake of brass, and put it on a pole, and it came to pass as God had said.

Balak the king of Moab, was in sore fear of the Israelites. So he sent to Balaam, a man who knew the true God, to ask him to come and curse them, for they were too strong for him; and he sent gifts to him. Balaam said to the men, "Lodge here this night, and I will bring you word as the Lord shall speak to me."

But God came and said to him, "Thou shalt not go with them, thou shalt not curse the Israelites, for they are blest." So Balaam told the men God would not give him leave to go with them; and they went back to their

king. Once more he sent to ask him, and told him he would do great things for him, if he would come and curse the Israelites. Balaam said that if Balak would give him rich gifts, he could not go from the word of God to do less or more. But that if they would stay that night, he should know what the Lord would say to him more. God came to him at night, and said to him, "If the men come to call thee, rise up, and go with them; but yet the word which I shall say to thee, that shalt thou do."

Balaam rose up next day, and took his ass, and went with the princes of Moab. And God was wroth that he went, and the angel of the Lord stood in the way, as a foe to him. Now he rode on his ass, and the ass saw the angel of the Lord with his sword *drawn* in his hand; and went on one side

out of the way, to a field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her his way. But the angel of the Lord stood in a place where the vines grew, with a wall on this side, and a wall on that side. When the ass saw him, she went to the wall, and Balaam's foot was hurt by the wall: and he smote her once more. And the angel of the Lord went on, and stood in a place, where was no way to turn to the right hand or to the left. And when the ass saw him, she fell down with Balaam: and he was wroth, and smote the ass with a staff. And God made the ass to speak, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to thee, that thou hast struck me these three times?" Balaam said, "Thou hast done ill: I would there were a sword in my hand, for now would I kill thee." And the ass said to him, "Am not I thine ass?

have I not borne thee since I was thine to this day? have I e'er done so to thee?" And he said, "Nay."

Then the Lord made Balaam to see his angel, who stood in the way, with his sword drawn in his hand: and he bent down his head, and fell flat on his face. And the angel said, "Why have you struck your ass these three times? I went out to stop thee, for thy way is bad in my sight: and the ass saw me, and went on one side; if she had not done so, I had slain thee, and let her live." And Balaam said, "I have done wrong; I knew not that you stood in the way: now, if it be wrong in thine eyes, I will go back." But the angel of the Lord said, "Go with the men: but say but what I speak to thee;" so he went on. Balak was *glad* to see him, but Balaam said, "I can

but speak the word that God shall put in my mouth."

The next day, Balak brought Balaam up to the high place of his false god, that there he might see all the Israelites.

Balaam told Balak to build him some places where he might serve God. Then he told him to stand by them while he went to hear what God would say. And the Lord put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, "Go back to Balak, and thus shalt thou speak. 'I can not curse the Israelites as Balak has sent for me to do: for God does not curse them. From the top of the rocks I see them. Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the fourth part of Israel? Let me die as a just man, and let my last end be like his!'" And Balak said to him, "What

hast thou done to me? I took thee to curse my foes, and thou hast blest them." Balaam said, "Must I not take heed to speak that which the Lord has put in my mouth?" Balak brought him to a fresh place, where he could see but a part of the Israelites, and said, "Curse me them from thence."

Balaam went to God, who said, "Go back to the king, and say, 'Rise up Balak, and hear: God is not a man, that he should lie; nor the son of man, that he should change his mind: hath he said, and shall he not do it? what he speaks, shall he not make good? I am to bless them: for he has blest them; and they shall slay their foes.'"

Balak said, "Do not curse them, nor bless them;" but Balaam said, "I told you, that what the Lord spoke, I must do."

Balak then brought him to a fresh place,

in the hope that God might let him curse them from thence.

When Balaam saw that God meant him to bless Israel, he said while he saw them in their tents, God brought them from Egypt: and he will bless them that bless Israel, and curse them that curse Israel.

Balak was wroth, and said, "As you will not curse them, as I sent for you to do, but will bless them: and have done so these three times; flee to thy place: I thought to make thee great; but lo, God has kept thee back." Balaam said, "I told the men you sent to me; that though you might give me rich gifts, I could not speak good or bad of mine own mind; what the Lord said, I would speak. Now I go back, but I will tell you what the Israelites shall do to you, in days to come."

Balaam who has heard God's words, saith,

"I shall see him, but not now; I shall see him, but not nigh; there shall come a star from Jacob, and a king shall rise out of Israel, who shall smite and kill you, and all Israel's foes."

Then Balaam rose up, and went to his place: and Balak went his way. But Balaam's end was that he was slain by the Israelites in a fight, where he was with their foes.

When Moses felt that he had not strength to lead and rule the Israelites, God told him to take Joshua, and lay his hands on him; and he should help him.

Then Moses told the Israelites once more, what God had done for them; and that he was not to go to the land, but should see it. That they must keep all God's laws and feasts. That he would one day raise them

up One, whom they must hear; and that when they had crost the Jordan, they should write the words of the ten laws on stones, and set them up for all to see and read. He told them he set death and life for them to choose from; life, if they would love and serve God: death, if they would not.

He said to Joshua, "Be strong: fear not, thou must go with them to the land, which the Lord hath sworn to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them. The Lord will go with thee, to lead thee: he will not fail thee, nor leave thee."

At last, God told Moses the time was come for him to die, but first to write and teach to the Israelites, a song of God's love and might.

He told them too, to set their hearts to

the words he spake: for it was not a vain thing for them, for it was their life; and if they kept them, their days should be long in the good land.

Moses was told by God to go up to mount Nebo, and see the land: and then he should die there. Moses blest the twelve tribes, and went up the mount; and the Lord said, "This is the land which I sware to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give their seed: I have let thee see it with thine eyes, but thou must not go there."

This is all we read of Moses' death, and no one knows where God made his grave.

And the Israelites wept for Moses: none were like him, whom the Lord knew face to face.

When Moses was dead, God told Joshua

the son of Nun, that they were to go to the Jordan, and cross it, to the land which He would give them, as He had told Moses. There should no man stand in his way all the days of his life: for as He had been with Moses, so He would be with him; He would not fail nor leave him. He was to be strong, and fear not; and he should part out the land to the Israelites. But he must take heed to do all the law that Moses had told him: and not turn from it to the right hand or the left, and then God would be with him in all places that he should go.

Then Joshua had the Israelites told that in three days' time they should cross the Jordan, and go on and take the land, which God gave them.

But the tribes of Reuben and Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh, choose their land

on that side of the Jordan; so none but their men of war were to go on to help the rest of the tribes to fight, and get their land.

Joshua then sent two men to spy out the land, and first of all the town of Jericho; so they went. But when the king of Jericho heard they were there, he sent to Rahab, in whose house they were, and said, "Bring forth the men who are come to thee, for they be come to search out all the land." But she hid them. She brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with some stalks of flax, which she had laid out there; and at night she let them down with a cord, for her house was on the wall of the town; and told them to flee to the hills, and hide there three days, lest those who had gone in search of them should take them: for she had said they were gone. She made them

swear that when they should take the town, they would save her and those in her house, for what she had done for them. They said they would if she bound a red thread by the place where she let them down.

Then they went back to Joshua, and told him what fear there was of them in all the land.

Joshua told the priests to take God's ark, and pass on in front of the rest, and when they came to the brink of Jordan, they were to stand still: and that as soon as their feet should rest in it, it should part and be an heap on each side: and all should cross it on dry land.

Then when all had crost, God told them to take twelve men, one from each tribe, and each one should take a stone from the midst of the stream, where the priests' feet stood

firm, and leave them where they should lodge that night; and in time to come when men should ask them, "What mean these stones?" they should tell them how they went through Jordan on dry ground.

When they came to Gilgal, they eat of the corn of the land, and the bread from the sky came no more, but they eat of the fruit of the land.

When they were by Jericho, God came to Joshua, and told him that he would give it him, and what they were to do. They were to go round the town six days, while the priests bore the ark, and some rams' horns; and when the six days were gone, on the next day they were to go round six more times than the first days: and then blow a long blast on the ram's horn; and all should shout with a loud voice, and the walls

should fall down flat, and they should go straight up.

And the Israelites did as they were told, and took Jericho, and all that was in it: and put all both man and beast to death. But Rahab, and all in her house, they brought out to the camp of Israel. And they burnt the place. So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame was great.

Ai was the next place they went to, and there they fled from their foes. Joshua was sad, rent his clothes, and fell to the earth; but God told him what was the cause of his wrath. Some one had done wrong, and had not put from him what God had said was to be curst and not kept, but had put it with his own stuff. If they did not put this sin from them and burn with fire, him who had done this thing with all that he had, God said He would no

more be with them. Joshua was to call out the tribes, and God would point out the man.

So Joshua rose up next day and brought Israel by their tribes, and Judah was the tribe; and at last the bad man was found out, and made to tell how he took some of the spoils from Jericho and hid them in the earth, in the midst of his tent; and they took them thence, and brought them to Joshua. And they took the man whose name was Achan, and all that he had, and cast stones at him, and then burnt them all with fire: and put a heap of stones to mark the place. Then they went up to Ai, and God let them take it; and they burnt it with fire.

Joshua put up some stones, and wrote on them the law of Moses, and read all the words of the law, and whom God would bless or curse.

When the kings of the land heard of all that was done, they made a league that they would all join to fight with Joshua; but the men of Gibeon made as if they had come from a far land, and put old sacks on their beasts, and old shoes on their feet, and old clothes on them; and took stale bread with mould on it, and came to Joshua to the camp, and said, "We be come from a far land make a league with us. We have heard of the fame of the Lord thy God and all that He did in Egypt, and we are come to serve you; so make peace with us." This the Israelites did, but did not first ask the Lord. At the end of three days, they heard that they dwelt close to them, but they had sworn to them not to hurt them, so they let them live, but made them their slaves.

Now Gibeon was a great place; so when the kings of the land heard how the Gibeonites had made peace with Israel, they went to war with them. Joshua went to help the men of Gibeon, and God said to him, "Fear not," and their foes fled from Israel. God cast down great stones on them, which slew more than the swords of the Israelites. Then Joshua spake to the Lord in that day, and said in the sight of Israel, "Sun, stand thou still on Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the vale of Ajalon." And they did so. And there was no day like that that God so heard the voice of a man: for the Lord fought for Israel.

Joshua and his men went back to their camp; but the five kings fled and hid in a cave, but Joshua had them brought out, and made his men put their feet on the kings'

necks: and told them not to fear, for so God would do to all their foes they fought with.

Then he smote and slew the kings, and hung them on five trees till the sun went down, and then cast them back in the cave where they hid, and laid great stones at the cave's mouth. Then Joshua and his men took more towns, and smote them with the sword, and all the souls in them, and let none stay.

They smote all the land of the hills, of the south, of the vale, and of the springs, and all their kings, and left none; but cut off all that had life as God bade them. They took all, for God fought for them. And no place, save Gibeon, made peace with them. But Joshua took the whole land, as the Lord had said to Moses.

And he gave it to the tribes of Israel, and then the land had rest from war. Joshua

gave to Caleb, (who had been a good spy with him, at the time that the rest of them spoke ill when they came back from Canaan,) a piece of ground for his own; for Moses had said he was to have some.

And it came to pass when Joshua grew old, that he sent for all Israel, and said, "I am old: now you have seen all God has done for you, and has fought for you. Now be strong to keep and do all the law, turn not from it, do not serve the false gods of this land, nor bow down to them; but cleave to the Lord your God, and take good heed to love him. For if ye go back, and join those of this land, they will be snares to you, and you shall leave this good land. I shall die, and ye know in your hearts that not one good *thing* God spake to you of, is kept from you,

all are come to pass. Now as all good things are come, as God said, so if you sin, shall bad things come on you."

Then Joshua said to the Israelites, "Thus saith the Lord God, I have brought you here from Egypt, and you have a good land, now then, fear the Lord in truth, and serve him. Choose this day, whom ye will serve, if ye will not serve God, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

And the Israelites said they would not leave Him for false gods, but would serve the Lord. Then we read of Joshua's death, and the death of Eleazar the son of Aaron.

When Joshua was dead, they still had war, and took more of the land, and drove out the Canaanites, but left some; so God said

they should be as thorns in their sides, and their gods should be a snare to them.

The Israelites did serve the Lord all the days of Joshua, but when he was dead, they went to serve false gods. God's wroth was hot, so He gave them up to their foes: and they were in deep grief. But from time to time He gave them a man to free them from their foes hands; as long as their judge was there they did right, but at his death, they went to serve false gods.

Once the Lord sold them to the hand of a king, who put a fierce man whose name was Sisera to rule them. Then the Israelites sent up a cry to God, to save them from him. Now Deborah was the judge of the Israelites at that time, and she and a man whose name was Barak, went to war; and they beat Sisera, *and his* host fell by the sword. But he fled

on his feet to the tent of Jael, Heber's wife, a friend of his, and she went out to meet him, and said, "Turn in to me, fear not;" and when he went in, she put a rug on him, to hide him: he said, "Give me, I pray thee, some drink?" and she gave him some milk: he said, "Stand in the door of the tent, and if a man come and ask if a man is here, thou shalt say, No." But she took a nail of the tent, and drove it in his brow, for he slept; and so he met his death. And when Barak came by, she went out to meet him, and said, "Come, and I will shew you the man you seek;" and there lay Sisera dead.

Then Deborah and Barak sang a song of praise to God.

But the Israelites did not serve God in years to come, so they were left by God to their foes, till they said "We have done wrong,

now save us, we pray." God sent to a man whose name was Gideon, and said by him he would free them; his first act was to throw down the place built to serve Baal the false god at, and to build one to the Lord.

Soon the foes came up to fight; Gideon said to God, "If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said: lo, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece, and it be dry on all the rest of the earth, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand." And it was so: for he rose in good time next morn, and wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full.

And Gideon said to God, "Let not thy wroth be great, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this *once* with the fleece; let it now be dry on

the fleece, while on all the ground there be dew." And God did so that night: it was dry on the fleece, and there was dew on all the ground.

Then Gideon and the Israelites went out to fight, God said there was no need of so large a host: so those who felt fear should go back. Then he was to bring down the rest to the stream: and to part those who drank as a dog would lap, and those who went down on their knees to drink.

But a few drank in the first way, but these were the ones God choose: and the rest had to go to their homes.

Then Gideon and his men went to their foes' camp, with jugs with lamps in them, and horns to blow, and he told them to do as he did. And all at once they blew a loud blast, and broke the jugs, and said, "The

sword of the Lord and of Gideon." And all the host ran and fled, and Israel was set free for a while.

But it came to pass when Gideon was dead, that they went to serve Baal, and made him their God. So God sold them to the Philistines, and told them to cry to their false gods to set them free. But in their need they put far from them the strange gods to serve the true God.

Now Jephthah was a brave man, and the Israelites made him their judge: and he went to lead them out to war. And he made a vow, that if God would give him his foes, that that which should come forth out of his house to meet him, when he came back in peace, should be the Lord's: and to him he would give it up.

God gave him his foes, and he smote and

slew them, and came back to his home; and lo, his child came out to meet him, with dance and song. Now she was the one child he had. And it came to pass when he saw her, he rent his clothes, and said, "Oh my child, thou has brought me low: thou art one that dost grieve me. For I must not go back from my word to God." And she said, "Do to me as you said, but first for two months, let me go up and down the hills with my friends." And he said, "Go." And she went, and at the end of the two months, she came back; and Jephthah did to her as he had made a vow to God he would.

But the Israelites went from God once more, and God gave them to the Philistines' hands for years.

Now there was a man of the tribe of Dan,

and God told his wife she should have a son, who should save them from the Philistines. When her son was born, she gave him the name of Samson. When he grew to be a young man, he went down to Timnath, and on his way, a young lion came out to him. God was with Sampson, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, though he had nought in his hand. When next he went by the place, he saw a swarm of bees in the dead beast, and he took some of their sweet food which they had made in his hands, and eat it as he went. When he came to his friend's house where he had made a feast, he said to his guests, he would give them a thing to find out: and if they could do so in the week of the feast, he would give them all sheets and changes of dress, but if they could *not find* it out, they should give the same to

him. And they said, "Tell it us," and he said, "Out of him that eats came forth meat, and from him that is strong that which is sweet."

At the end of three days they had not made it out, so they told his wife if she did not find it out for them, they would burn her and her house with fire. So she wept and said to Samson, he had not told her what it was; so at last he did.

Then she told the young men, and so they knew what to say: and Samson had to give them the gifts. But he went and slew some of the Philistines, and took their spoil, and so gave clothes, as he had said he would.

One day he caught some foxes, put them tail to tail, and put a torch in the midst of each pair, then set the brands on fire, and let them go in the corn of the Philistines,

and burnt it, and the vines, and the fruit trees. He smote the men of the Philistines too, and slew them, and went and dwelt on the top of a rock.

The Philistines came up in the land; and when the men of the tribe of Judah said, "Why are ye come up?" they said, "To bind Samson are we come up, to do to him as he has done to us."

Then the men of Judah went to the top of the rock, and said to Samson, "Do you not know that the Philistines rule us? what is this that thou hast done to us? We are come to bind thee, that we may give thee to their hands." Samson said to them, "Swear to me, that ye will not fall on me." And they said "No; but we will bind thee fast, and give thee to their hand: but we will not kill thee." And they bound him with two

new cords, and brought him up from the rock.

When he came to the Philistines, they gave a shout. The Lord gave him might, and the cords that were on his arms were as flax that is burnt with fire. And he found a jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and slew heaps on heaps of them; and when he had done, he cast from him the jaw of the ass.

But he had sore thirst, and said to God, "You have set me free: now shall I die of thirst, and fall to my foes." But God clave a place in the jaw, and there came drink from it for him.

Then went Samson to Gaza, and when the men of the place heard that he was there, they laid wait for him all night in the gate, and said, "In the morn, when it is day, we

shall kill him." But in the midst of the night, he rose, and took the doors of the gate of the town, and the two posts, and went off with them, bar and all: and took them up to the top of a hill.

Then the lords of the Philistines got a girl, whose name was Delilah, of whom Samson was fond: to try and find out in what his great strength lay. He told her four things, the three first were not true, and she found out the cheat; but at last he told her all his heart; his hair had not been cut since he was born, if it were, he would lose his strength, and he should be weak like the rest of men. Then she made him sleep, and sent for a man to shave off his hair from his head. When he woke, he thought he could go out as he had done, but God had left him.

The Philistines now took him, put out his

eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with chains of brass; and he did grind in the jail. But his hair grew while he was there. The lords of the Philistines had a great day of joy, and they said, their false god Dagon, had put their foe in their hand. In the midst of their joy, they said, "Call for Samson, that he may make us sport." So they sent for him; and set him in the midst of two of the posts of the house. Samson said to the lad that held him by the hand, "Let me feel the posts on which the house stands, that I may lean on them." Now the house was full of Philistines; all their lords were there, and the roof was full of them too.

Samson said to the Lord, "Give me strength, I pray thee, this once, to pay them for the loss of my two eyes." He then took

hold of the two posts on which the house stood, and on which it was borne up; and he said, "Let me die with the Philistines." Then he bent down with all his might; and the house fell on the lords, and on all that were there: so the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life. Then his friends came down, and took him, and put him in the grave.

Now it came to pass while the judges had rule in the land, that there was a sore want of bread; and a man went from Canaan to the land of Moab: he, his wife Naomi, and his two sons. And there he was till his death; and the two sons took them wives from Moab; the name of Mahlon's wife was Orpah, and Chilion's was Ruth. But Mahlon and Chilion did not live long: so old Naomi

rose to go back from the land of Moab, for she had heard that now they had bread in Canaan, and Orpah and Ruth went with her. But Naomi said to them, "Go back to your own friend's homes; and may God deal well with you, as ye dealt with the dead, and with me." And she gave them a kiss; then they wept, and said they would go with her. But she said, "Nay," then they both still wept: and Orpah gave her a kiss; but Ruth clave to her.

Naomi said, "See Orpah is gone back, go you with her." But Ruth said, "Ask me not to leave thee, or go back from thee: for where you go, I will go; and where you lodge, I will lodge: thy race shall be my race, and thy God my God: where you die, will I die, and there shall my grave be: the Lord do so to me, and more too, if ought but

death part thee and me." When Naomi saw that she was firm, she said no more to her. So they two went till they came to Bethlehem, just at the time when the corn was to be cut.

Now there was one of Naomi's kin, of the name of Boaz. And Ruth said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field, and glean ears of corn from him in whose sight I shall find grace;" and Naomi said, "Go." And she went to glean, and her chance was to light on a part of the field that was Boaz's.

Boaz came to the field, and said to his men, "The Lord be with you;" and they said, "The Lord bless thee." And he said to his head man when he saw Ruth, "Who is she?" and the man told him she came from Moab with Naomi: and it was her wish to glean here. Then Boaz said to her, "Go not hence, but stay and glean

with the girls in this field: and when you wish to drink, go and drink of that which the young men have drawn." Then she fell down, and said, "Why have I found such grace in thine eyes, for thou dost not know me?" But Boaz told her it had been shewn him all that she had done for Naomi, since Chilion's death: and that she had left her friends and her own land, and had come to a new land, and to place her trust in the Lord God of Israel.

Then Boaz told his young men to let her glean, and to let some of the corn fall and leave it for her. So she kept on all day: and when she went home, Naomi said, "Where have you been?" and Ruth told her; and Naomi said, "The man is near of kin to us." Ruth said, "He told me to keep fast by his young men, till they had done."

And Naomi said, "It is good that thou glean in his fields." So she kept fast by his girls till the work was done, and dwelt with Naomi.

Boaz in a short time took Ruth for his wife, and she had a son, and her friends gave it the name of Obed: and Naomi took the child, and was nurse to it. When Obed grew up, he had a son of the name of Jesse, of whom and of his son David we shall soon read more.

There was a man whose name was Elkanah, and his wife's name was Hannah, and she had no child, and it made her sad. And she said to God, "If you will give me a boy, I will give him to thee all the days of his life." And God heard her and gave her a son, to whom she gave the name of Samuel. In course of time, she took him to Eli the priest,

and told him she had lent him to the Lord, for as long as he should live. So she left him to serve God; and each year she and Elkanah came to see him, and she made a small coat for him, as her gift to him from year to year.

Now Eli was a good old man, but his sons were bad: and he did not keep them from their sins, so God was wroth with them all; and sent a man of God to tell him that there should be no old man in his house, but that both his sons should die while young men; and that God would raise him up a priest, who should do that which was in his heart, and in his mind, and he should walk in his ways.

While Samuel was still a child, one night Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes

were dim, so that he could not see well. And ere the lamp of God went out in God's house, where the ark was, and Samuel had gone to lie down to sleep; the Lord gave a call to him, and he said, "Here am I." And he ran to Eli, and said, "Here am I; for thou didst call me." And Eli said, "I did not call you, go and lie down." And he went and lay down. And the Lord spoke once more to Samuel. Then Samuel rose and went to Eli, and said, "Here am I; for thou didst call me;" and he said, "I did not call, my son; go, lie down." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, he had not heard his voice. Then the third time the Lord spoke; then Samuel rose and went to Eli, and said, "Here am I; for thou didst call me." And Eli knew that it was God's voice the child had heard: so *he* said to Samuel, "Go, lie down: and it

shall be if he call thee that thou shalt say, 'Speak, Lord; for I who would serve you, hear.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

And the Lord came, and stood, and said once more, "Samuel, Samuel." Then Samuel said what Eli had told him to say.

Then the Lord told him how he would judge Eli and his house, for his sons had been vile, and he had not kept them from sin. When the night was past, Samuel did not like to tell Eli what God had said; but Eli said, "I pray thee, hide it not from me: God do so to thee, and more too, if thou hide from me the things he said to thee." Samuel told him all, and kept not a word back; and Eli said, "It is the Lord: let him do what seems good to him."

And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with

him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

Then there was war in the land; the Israelites went up to fight with the Philistines, and the two sons of Eli were there with the ark. And the Philistines smote the Israelites, and they fled: and the ark was left with the foe, and the two sons of Eli were slain.

Old Eli sat on a seat by the road, and soon he heard the sad news from a man who had fled, and he fell off the seat, and his neck brake; for he was an old man.

The Philistines took the ark, and brought it to Ashdod; and put it in the house of Dagon their false god, and set it by him; and when they rose the next day, lo, Dagon lay on his face on the earth, in front of the ark, and they took Dagon, and set him up in his *own* place; but when they came the next

day, the false god was down once more: and his head and both the palms of his hands were cut off; there was but the stump of Dagon left. And God smote the men of Ashdod with a plague: so they would not keep the ark, but sent it on. But each place they took it to, God's wroth was on the men of it. So at last they sent it out of their land.

Samuel was judge in Israel till he was an old man. Then the Israelites said they would like a king. Samuel told them it would not be a good thing for them, but they said, "Nay, but we will have a king to rule us." So God said they should have one.

Now there was a man of the tribe of Benjamin, of the name of Kish, who had a son, a choice young man, by name, Saul. He was so tall that no man in the land was of

the same height. Kish lost his asses, and Saul went to look for them: but he could not find them. So he said to the man that went with him, it were best to go home, lest Kish think that harm hath come to us.

But the man said, "There is Samuel a man of God in this town, he may shew us the way we ought to take." And they were told where they should find him, for there was a feast that day: and they would not eat till he came to bless it. So they went up to the high place. Now the Lord had told Samuel that he would send him a man out of the land of Benjamin, and that he should make him head of the Israelites, to save them out of the hand of the Philistines. And when Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said to him, "Lo, the man I spake to thee of! this same shall *rule them.*" Then Saul drew near to Samuel

to ask for his house, but Samuel told him who he was, and that he must go with him that day, and that the beasts he had lost for three days were found. So Saul eat with him that day. On the next, Samuel told Saul to stand still, that he might shew him the word of God.

Then Samuel took some oil and put it on his head, and gave him a kiss: and he told him he would see three signs, which would teach him God was with him; and they all came to pass.

Then Samuel bade the Israelites come to him, and told them Saul was the man who was to be their king. At first, Saul could not be found, but they ran and brought him. Some men would not have him for their king, but soon they were all of one mind, and Saul was made king with great joy at Gilgal.

Then Samuel brought to their mind what God had done for them in times past, and had been their King, but now they had their wish, and had a man for their king, yet still they must fear the Lord and serve him with all their hearts, and think what great things he had done for them. If they did wrong, God would cut off both them and their king.

When Saul had been king two years, he choose out men to go and fight the Philistines. Samuel was to come to him at the end of a week, but he came not. So Saul took on him the priest's work, and as he came to an end, Samuel came; Saul went out to meet him. Then Samuel said, "What hast thou done?" Saul said, "The men I found left me: and you did not come in the days you said, and the Philistines came out to fight; *so I did* what I thought would please God."

Samuel said, "Thou hast done like a fool, thou hast not kept the law of the Lord thy God, then would he have let thee and thine house reign for all time; but now it shall not be so. The Lord hath sought him a man whose heart is like his, and he shall rule the Israelites, for thou hast not kept that which the Lord bade thee."

At one time Samuel said to Saul, "The Lord hath sent me to tell you to smite Amalek, for when Israel came up from Egypt, they laid wait for them in the way. So now go, smite them, and kill all that they have, and spare none, but slay men and beasts." So Saul smote them, and took their king, and slew all in their land with the edge of the sword. But he kept Agag the king, and the best of the beasts, and all that was good; but all that was vile, they kept not. God

was wroth, and told Samuel so. Samuel went to meet Saul, and found him at Gilgal. Saul said, "I have done as God bade me." Samuel said, "But what is then this sound of beasts I hear." Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites: they kept the best to give to the Lord, and all the rest we slew."

Then Samuel said to Saul, "Stay, and I will tell thee what the Lord hath said to me this night;" and he said, "Say on." "God," Samuel said, "Took thee when thou wast mean in thine own sight, and made thee head of the tribes of Israel, and sent thee to fight with, and to slay all the Amalekites. Why then didst thou not do so, but didst fly on the spoil, and so sin in God's sight?" Saul said he had but kept back some to give up to God. *But* Samuel said the first thing in God's

sight is to do as He bids: as you have not kept God's word He will not let you be king. Saul said, "I have done wrong. Now, I pray thee, blot out my sin, and turn with me, that I may serve the Lord." Samuel said, "I will not do so: thou hast put from thee the word of the Lord, and the Lord hath put thee from the throne." Saul laid hold on Samuel's dress as he went, and it rent; and Samuel said, "The Lord hath rent the throne from thee this day, and will give it to one of more worth than thou." Saul still said, "Do turn with me." So Samuel did; and then he said, "Bring here to me king Agag." And he came; but he did not think he was to die now, but Samuel cut him in pieces.

Then he went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his own house. Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: yet

he did not cease to grieve for him. And the Lord said to him, "How long wilt thou mourn for Saul? fill thy horn with oil and go, I will send thee to Jesse, the Bethlemite: for I have found me a king from his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a young ox, and say, I am come to give it to the Lord; and call Jesse, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do."

So he went to Bethlehem, and to Jesse and his sons, and he thought his first-born must be the one, but God said. "Nay," both to him and to all the rest that were there.

Then said Samuel, "Are all thy sons here?" and Jesse said, "No, there is still young David, he keeps the sheep." Samuel said, "Send and fetch him: for we will not *sit down* till he be come here." And he sent,

and brought him in. Now he was good, and fair to look at; and the Lord said, "Rise, take the oil: for this is he." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and put it on him in the midst of them: and the Spirit of the Lord came on David from that day. But the Spirit of the Lord went from Saul.

Now the Philistines came out to fight, and Saul and his men came out to fight with them. They each stood on a high hill, with a vale in their midst. And there went out from the Philistines' camp a man of the name of Goliath, of Gath, he was of a great height: he wore a cap of brass, and a coat of mail of great weight: he had greaves of brass on his legs: his spear was large and of great weight: and a man went in front of him with his shield.

He stood and said with a loud cry to the

Israelites, "Why are ye come out? am not I a Philistine, and do not ye serve Saul? choose you out a man for you, and let him come down to me, if he can fight me, and kill me, then we will serve you: but if I kill him, then ye shall serve us; give me a man to fight with me." When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were in great fear.

Now David was the son of Jesse of Bethlehem-judah, a man who had eight sons: and he was an old man; and his three sons Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah went with Saul to the war, but David his last-born child, kept his sheep.

The Philistine drew near morn and eve for some weeks. Jesse said to David his son, "Take now some of this roast corn, and *these ten* loaves, and run to my sons at the

camp; and take these ten cheeses to the head man, and look how my sons fare, and take their pledge." Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the vale of Elah, at the fight with the foe.

David got up in good time next day, and left the sheep with a man, and took and went as Jesse bade him; and he came to the trench, as the host went forth to the fight. David ran, and came up to them, and while they spoke to him there came up Goliath, and David heard the words he said.

And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him in great fear. And they said, "Have ye seen this man that is come up? It shall be, that the man who kills him, the king will make him rich, and will make him his son-in-law, and his house shall be free in Israel." David spoke to the

men that stood by him, and said, "What shall be done to the man that shall kill him?" and the men told him.

Eliab heard what David spake to the men; and he was wroth, and said, "Why did you come down here? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep? I know your pride of heart; for you art come down that you may see the fight." And David said, "What have I now done, is there not a cause?"

And they told David's words to Saul, and he sent for him. And David said, "Let no man's heart fail for him; I will go and fight with this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Thou cannot go to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

David said to Saul, "I kept Jesse's sheep, and there came two wild beasts, and took a

lamb out of the flock: and I went out and smote him, and took it out of his mouth: and when he rose at me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. I slew them both: and this Philistine shall be as one of them, he hath come to make war with God's men of Israel." David said too, "The Lord freed me from the paws of the wild beasts, and he will free me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to him, "Go, and the Lord be with thee."

And he put his clothes on David, and a coat of mail, and David girt on his sword; but then he said to Saul, "I cannot go with these; for I do not know them." And David put them off him. And he took his staff in his hand, and choose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in his bag which he had; and his sling

was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

And he came on and drew near to David; and the man that bare the shield went in front of him. And when Goliath saw David, he thought scorn of him: for he was but a youth; and he said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with staves?" and he spoke a curse on David by his gods. And he said to David, "Come to me, and I will give thy flesh to the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field."

Then said David to the Philistine, "You came to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel whom you brave. This day will the Lord give thee to mine hand; and I will *smite thee*, and take thy head from thee; and

I will give the host of the Philistines this day to the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this host shall know that God saves not with sword and spear: for the fight is the Lord's, and he will give you to our hands."

And it came to pass when the Philistine rose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David made haste, and ran to meet him. And he put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine that the stone sunk in his brain; and he fell on his face to the earth. So David smote the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David. So David ran, and stood on the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath, and slew him,

and cut off his head. But when the Philistines saw that Goliath was dead, they fled; and the men of Israel rose with a great shout, and went on and slew them. And David took Goliath's head, and brought it to Jerusalem.

And when Saul saw David go forth to fight Goliath, he said, "Whose son is this youth?" but Abner the head of the host, did not know; and the king said, "Ask whose son he is." So as David came back from the fight, Abner took him, and brought him to Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. And Saul said to him, "Whose son art thou young man?" And he told him he was the son of Jesse.

Now Jonathan, Saul's son, had great love for David, from that time. And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more

home; and Jonathan took off the robe that was on him, and gave it to David, and his clothes, his sword, his bow, and his sash.

David went out where Saul sent him, and did well, and Saul set him to be the head of his men of war. And they said, "Saul hath slain much men, but David more." Saul was wroth at this, and from that time he did not like David.

One day Saul cast a spear at him, to smite him to the wall. And Saul was in fear of David, for the Lord was with David, and had left Saul; and all the Israelites were fond of him. Saul said to David, "I will give you my child Merab, for your wife: but go out and fight," for he had hopes the Philistines might kill him. And David said, "Who am I, to be your son-in-law?" But it came to pass that Saul did not give Merab to David,

but let a man of the name of Adriel make her his wife. But Michal Saul's child was fond of David, and they told Saul, and he was glad, for he meant to make her a snare for him: he said as he was poor, and could give no wealth for her, he should kill some Philistines; but Saul thought to make him fall by their hand. But David went and slew the king's foes; and so Michal was his wife. But Saul was now more in fear of him; and David was so wise, that his name was much set by.

And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to the Israelites, that they should kill David. But Jonathan was fond of him, and told him what Saul sought to do; and that he should take heed, and that he would speak to Saul, and would tell David what he said; and *Jonathan* spoke good of David to Saul, and

brought to his mind what he had done, and Saul sware he should not be slain. So Jonathan told David, and brought him to Saul. But soon he cast a spear once more at him. So David fled that night. Saul sent to his house to watch him, to have him slain next day; and Michal told him he must go to save his life. So she let him down, and he fled.

Michal took a piece of wood and laid it in the bed, and put a cloth on it; and when Saul sent men to take David, she said, "He is sick." Saul sent the men then to see David, and said, "Bring him to me in the bed, that I may slay him." And when the men were come in, lo, David was not there. Saul said to Michal, "Why hast thou let my foe go?" and she said, "He said, let me go, why should I kill thee?" But David fled

to Samuel, and told him what Saul had done, and he dwelt with him.

In time David came back to Jonathan, and said, "What have I done? what is my sin that Saul seeks my life?" Jonathan said, "Thou shalt not die. Saul would tell me if he meant to kill you." David said, "He knows I have found grace in your eyes: so he will not tell you, lest he grieve you; but I am but a step from death." Jonathan said he would do for him as he thought good. David said, "The feast of the new moon comes, if Saul should miss me, say you gave me leave to go home. If he say, 'It is well;' I shall have peace: but if he be wroth, he means ill to me."

Jonathan said he would do so, and on the third day, he would shew him how he stood *with* Saul; and for this, David should be kind

to him: and his both now and when all his foes were cut off. And David sware to him.

Jonathan said, "Stay three days, then come and hide by a stone, and I will shoot three times as though I shot at a mark, and I will send a lad to find out my shafts. If I say to him, they are on this side of thee, take them; then come thou: for there is peace to thee, and no hurt; as the Lord lives. But if I say to the young man, they are far on from thee; go thy way: for the Lord hath sent thee."

So David hid in the field: and Jonathan did as he said; but soon he found Saul meant ill by his friend. So on the third day he gave him the sign to go, and sent the lad off, and gave David a kiss, and wept with him. David went to the king of Gath, but there he did not feel safe; so he fled to the cave of

Adullam, and there his friends went to him. Thence he went and dwelt in a wood. Saul had most of the Lord's priests put to death, for they were kind once to David, and he went to try and take David, and sought him in the woods: but God kept him.

Jonathan went to David, and said, "Fear not, for the hand of Saul shall not find thee, and thou shalt be king and I shall be next to thee, and that Saul knows."

The Philistines came up, so for a time Saul left David in peace; but soon he went back to seek him and his men, on the rocks of the wild goats: and he came to a cave and went in. David and his men were in the sides of the cave, and the men said, "Lo, the day of which the Lord said to thee, I will give thy foe to thy hand, to do to him as *shall* seem good to thee." Then David rose,

and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe. But when he had done so, his heart smote him, and he would not let his men hurt him.

Saul rose up out of the cave, and went his way; and David rose up too, and went out, and said, "My lord the king." Saul saw who it was, and David told him what he had done; and that he would not kill him.

Saul, when he heard all, said, "Is this thy voice, my son David?" and he wept, and said, "I know thou shalt be king; swear to me that thou wilt not cut off my seed." And David sware. Then Saul went home; but David and his men gat them up to the hold.

At this time we read of Samuel's death, and that all Israel wept for him.

Now there was a rich man whose name was Nabal, and David sent to ask him to

give him and his men food; but he would not. But his wife Abigail, took some loaves, some wine, some sheep, some corn, and some fruit: and brought them to David, lest he should harm her house. Some ten days from that time, the Lord struck Nabal with death, and David took Abigail for his own wife.

Saul came back to take David. One night, David came to the place where he lay, and Abishai a friend, went with him. Saul slept in a trench, his spear stuck in the ground at his head, and his men round him.

Abishai said, "Let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear to the earth at once." But David said, "No one shall stretch out a hand to kill him, but the Lord shall smite him, or his day shall come, or he shall die in war;" but take the spear at his head, and *his cruse* of drink, and let us go. So they

did, and went, and no man saw it, nor knew it, nor woke; for a deep sleep from the Lord was on them.

David went and stood on the top of a high hill a good space off; and said with a loud voice, "Why hast thou not kept the king? one came to slay him; the thing is not good that you have done, now see where the king's spear and cruse are, that were at his head."

Saul knew David's voice, and said, "Is this thy voice my son?" and David said, "It is my voice, my lord, O king. Why do you hunt me? what have I done? let not my blood fall to the earth." Saul said, "He had done wrong: he would no more do him harm."

David said, "Let one of the young men come and fetch the king's spear; and as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes,

so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the Lord, and let him take from me my grief." Saul said, "The Lord bless thee, my son David, thou shalt do great things." So David went on his way, and Saul went back to his place. Still David did not feel his life was safe, so he fled out of the land to Achish, king of Gath, in the land of the Philistines.

In those days, the Philistines came up to war with Israel, in Gilboa; and when Saul saw their host, he was in great fear, and he went to a witch (or one that gave out that she could tell things to come) at Endor.

Saul did not wish her to know him, for in times past, he had sent such as she was out of the land: so he put off his king's dress, and went with two men to her at night, and said *to her,* "Can you bring me up him whom I

shall name?" She said, "Why do you lay a snare for me, to cause me to die? you know that Saul hath cut off all that do such things as you ask." Saul sware to her no harm should come to her, for this thing. Then she said, "Whom shall I bring up to thee?" and he said, "Bring me up Samuel." When she saw Samuel, she said with a loud voice, "Why have you done this? for thou art Saul." The king said, "Fear not: what did you see, what form had it?" She said, "I see an old man with a cloak on." Saul knew it was Samuel, and bent him down low to him. Samuel said, "Why have you brought me up?" Saul said, "I am in sore need. The Philistines make war on me, and God has left me, and will speak no more to me: so I call to you to make known to me what I shall do." Samuel said, "Why do

you ask me, you see the Lord has left you, and is your foe? The Lord hath rent the crown from thee, to give it to David, for you did not heed God's voice: and he will give thee and the Israelites to the Philistines. One day more, and thou and thy sons shall be with me." Then Saul fell down on the earth, when he heard the words of Samuel: and there was no strength in him; for he had had no food all the day nor night, nor would he eat now at first. But they made him, and then he and his men rose up, and left.

The Philistines fought with the Israelites, and the men of Israel fled, and fell down slain. And they slew Jonathan, and two more of Saul's sons, and shot at Saul. And he said to the man who bore his arms, "Draw thy *sword*, and thrust me through with it; lest

the foe come and do it;" but the man's fear was too great, and he would not. So Saul took a sword and fell on it. And when the man saw he was dead, he fell too on his sword.

The next day when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they found Saul and his three son's all dead; and they cut off the king's head, and hung his corpse on a wall; and sent to make the news known through their land.

But some men came by night, and took the corpse of Saul and of his sons down from the wall, and burnt them; and put the bones in a grave by a tree, and held a fast for them for a week.

On the third day, a man came from the camp of Saul with his clothes rent, and earth on his head to David, and told him that Saul

and Jonathan his son were both dead: and that the Israelites had fled. When David heard the sad news he wept, and was in deep grief: for Jonathan had been his dear friend.

In a short time, David was made king as God had said he should be. For some time there was war made by some for the house of Saul, but at last, all the tribes came to make David their king.

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